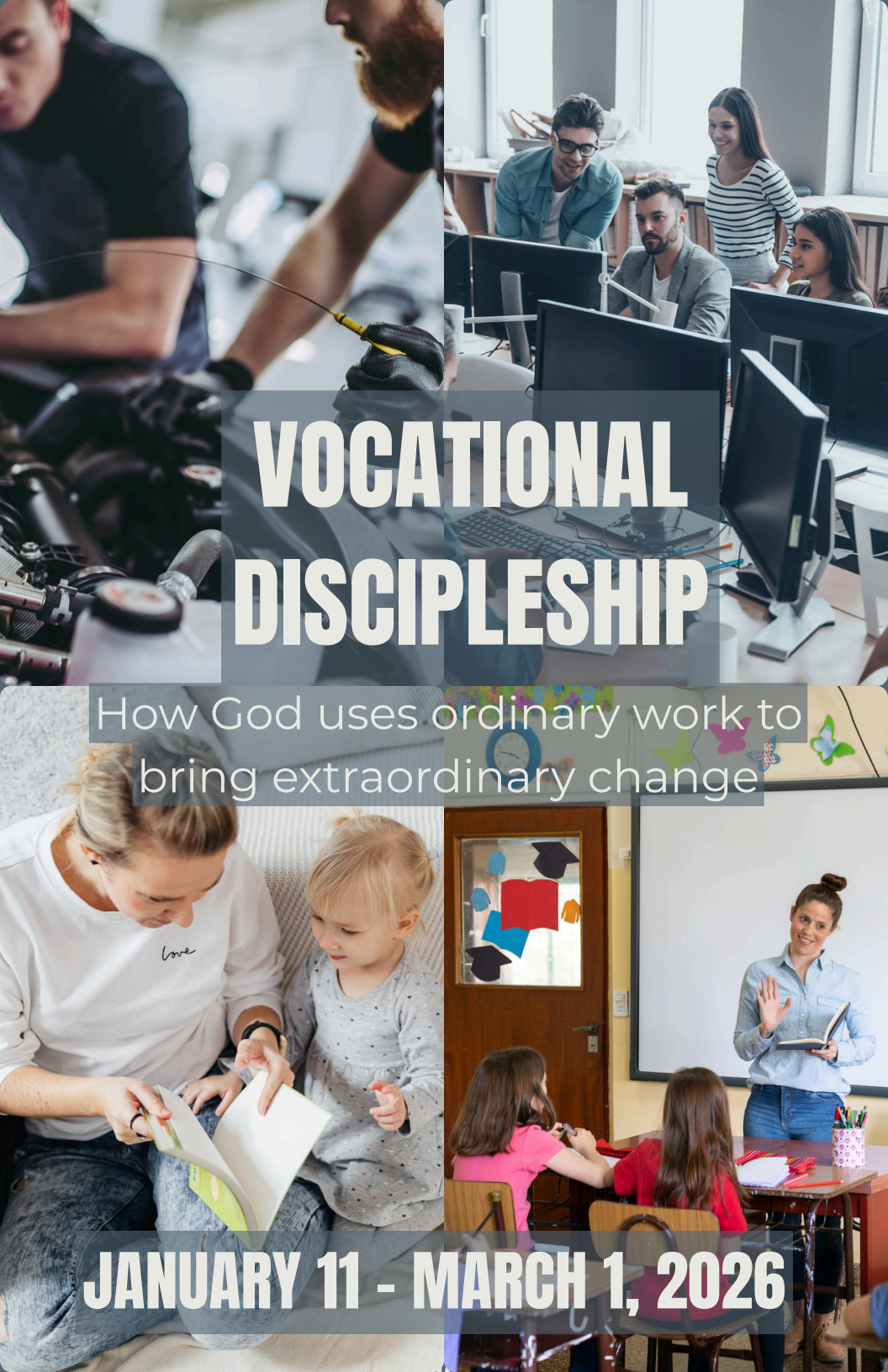
VOCATIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP
How God uses ordinary work to bring extraordinary change
JANUARY 11 - MARCH 1, 2026

VOCATIONAL DICIPLESHIP

God has created you with intention. He has given you gifts, personality, passions, and experiences that are not random. You bear His image, and He invites you to participate with Him in His renewal of the world.

This journal is an invitation to pay attention to how God is calling you, not only on Sundays, but in the places where life actually happens: where you work, learn, serve, and build relationships.

During this series, we recognize that calling is broader than career. Work is one place where our calling may be lived out, but our call from God extends into every sphere of life — including relationships, family, friendships, neighborhoods, and communities.

At the same time, when we overlook the significance of our daily work, even so-called "secular" work, we miss a major portion of our lives where God invites us to live as Kingdom ambassadors. As we seek **a renewed city through renewed people**, vocational discipleship, which we think of as living with intention and purpose in our daily labor, becomes one of the primary ways God shapes us and brings His renewal to Kalamazoo.

Over the next eight weeks, this journal will help you:

- Listen for God's voice in Scripture and in your everyday life
- Notice where and how God might already be using you
- Discover the ways He has uniquely wired you to bless others
- Identify the places where your calling is lived out
- Name one next faithful step He is inviting you to take

HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL

This journal is not homework. It is a companion to help you pay attention to what God may be saying during this series. You can engage with it in whatever rhythm fits your life.

Here are some simple ways to use it well:

1. **Read the Scripture** at the top of the section each week. Sit with it, slowly, and notice what God highlights.

2. **Reflect on the questions.**
Don't aim for perfect answers. Be honest and prayerful.

3. **Write down what you're sensing**
Even small thoughts or nudges can be important.

4. **Pray through the prayer**
Ask the Spirit to shape your heart to look more like Jesus.

WITH OTHERS
You can also use this journal with others, like a friend, spouse, or your small group. Community is one of the most important aspects of our spiritual formation as others walk with us, help us see what we miss, and love us.

Throughout these eight weeks, keep watch for what God is doing in you and around you.
Calling is something we receive, not something we achieve.

Take your time. Pay attention. God is already at work.

APPRENTICESHIP PATH NEXT STEP

CALLED & GIFTED WORKSHOP

Following Jesus means learning to live out your calling where God has placed you.
If this journal has stirred questions or curiosity about your gifts, passions, and purpose, the Called & Gifted Workshop is your best next step.

Join one of the upcoming Called & Gifted Workshops beginning January 12 and February 9, 2025

This 4-week journey helps you:

- Discover how God has uniquely gifted you
- Discern your purpose in this season of life
- Identify real places where your calling is lived out
- Take your next faithful step in Kingdom living

Whether you're exploring your calling for the first time or seeking fresh clarity for a new season, this cohort will help you notice where God is already at work in and through your life.

We recommend this workshop for anyone longing to live with greater purpose and impact.

Register for the January Workshop: bit.ly/CGJanuary2026

Register for the February Workshop: bit.ly/CGFebruary2026

Questions? Contact Pastor Mark at mmorris@centerpoint.faith

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 1: JANUARY 11

THE CULTURAL MANDATE

Read: Genesis 1:28–30; Genesis 2:15

Work is part of God's good design. Before sin entered the story, God gave humanity purpose: to cultivate, steward, and participate in God's ongoing work in the world.

Reflection Questions:

- What part of your work (paid or unpaid) feels meaningful or life-giving?
- Where do you see God's goodness expressed through what you do each day?
- Who benefits from your work?
- What makes it hard to view your work as part of your calling?

Simple Practice:

This week, notice one moment when your work or effort brings order, care, or goodness into the world.

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week, try asking:

Where do you see God using your work to bless others?
Where do you see God using me?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for creating me with purpose. Thank You for the gifts, skills, and responsibilities You've entrusted to me. Help me see my work, paid or unpaid, as part of Your good design. May my labor bring flourishing to others and honor to Your name. Amen.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 2: JANUARY 18

THE GREAT DUAL COMMISSION

Read: Genesis 1:27–28; Matthew 28:18–20

From the beginning, God called humanity to cultivate the earth. After the resurrection, Jesus commissions His followers to go and make disciples. These two commissions are not separate stories—they are one unfolding mission. God is redeeming people and renewing the world, and He invites us to participate in that work.

Reflection Questions:

- Where has God already placed you to represent His Kingdom—at work, at school, at home, or in your community?
- How does seeing your daily life as part of God's mission change the way you approach it?
- What responsibilities or roles might God use to bring His goodness and truth to others?
- What part of God's mission feels most compelling to you right now?

Simple Practice:

This week, notice one place where your regular presence or faithfulness reflects God's love to others.

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week, try asking:

Where do you see my life intersecting with God's mission of renewal and flourishing?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for inviting me into Your mission. Help me see my daily life as a place where Your Kingdom is made visible. Give me the courage to live faithfully in the roles and responsibilities You've entrusted to me. Use my life to point others toward Your love and truth. Amen.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 3: JANUARY 25

IMAGINE WHAT GOD MIGHT DO!

Read: Isaiah 65:17–25

God gives us a vision of a renewed city, a place where joy, justice, and peace overflow. He invites ordinary people to participate in this extraordinary work.

Reflection Questions:

- Where do you see healing, hope, or renewal happening in your workplace, school, or community? Take a moment to thank God for his work!
- What needs or problems catch your attention that you can bring to God in prayer?
- How might you contribute to the solustion to those needs or problems?

Simple Practice:

This week, notice one situation that could be improved and imagine how God might be inviting you to bring renewal there.

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week:

Share where you hope to see God bring renewal. Where do they hope to see renewal?

Closing Prayer

God of new creation, thank You for inviting me into Your work of renewal. Open my eyes to the opportunities around me to bring joy, peace, and healing. Help me imagine what You desire for this city, and give me courage to play my part. Amen.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 1

RELEASING PRAYER FOR THE CITY

Read: Jeremiah 29:4–8

God calls His people to seek the peace and flourishing of the places where they live. Prayer is not an escape from the city; it is how we learn to love it, listen to God's heart for it, and join His work there. As we pray for the city, our work, relationships, and daily presence become ways God brings His peace to others.

Reflection Questions:

- Where is God inviting you to pray for the peace and shalom of your workplace, neighborhood, or community?
- Who are the people you feel drawn to bless, support, or encourage?
- How might you become a person of shalom in the places you spend your week?

Simple Practice:

Create your **Five Alive**. Go to the **back cover of this journal** for a guide through this practice.

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week:

Share where you sense God inviting you to bring peace this week.

Closing Prayer

God of peace, thank You for placing me where I am not by accident, but by Your design. Teach me to pray for this city with love, patience, and hope. Shape my heart to seek its good, and show me how my presence, prayers, and work can bring Your shalom. May Your Kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 8
BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

Read: Proverbs 11:10

In God's economy, prosperity isn't measured by what we gain but by how our lives contribute to the flourishing of others. When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices.

Reflection Questions:

- Where have you experienced blessing, influence, or resources in this season?
- Who benefits when those blessings are stewarded well?
- How might God be inviting you to share what you've been given for the good of others?
- Where might God be inviting you to repent of placing your trust in time, energy, or resources instead of in Him?

Simple Practice:

This week, notice one opportunity to share what you've been given for the good of someone else.

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week, try asking:

Where do you see my work or efforts helping others flourish?

Closing Prayer

Giver of every good gift, thank You for the ways You have equipped and provided for me. Teach me to steward what I have, my time, skill, influence, and resources, for the good of others. Help me see prosperity as an opportunity to participate in Your generous Kingdom. Amen.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 15

IS THERE A CHRISTIAN WAY TO LAND A PLANE?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:58

God cares about the work you do. Not just spiritual or church work, but your daily efforts have dignity, value, and purpose because you are joining God's ongoing work in the world.

Reflection Questions:

- What are you doing when you feel most "in your element" in your work or service?
- What do others affirm you are good at — skills, qualities, or strengths?
- How might your work reflect something true about how God has uniquely wired you?

Simple Practice:

This week, notice one moment when your unique strengths help someone or make work better.

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week, try asking:

Where do you see my strengths making a difference in the lives of others?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You that my labor in You is never wasted. Help me see the dignity You have placed on my work and the people I serve through it. Teach me to rely on Your strength, and to work with hope, knowing I am partnering with You. Amen.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 22
A BEAUTIFUL WORLD

Read: Genesis 2:9; Revelation 21:19

God delights in beauty. From the garden to the New Jerusalem, Scripture reveals a God who creates with care, intention, and delight. When we work with care, intention, and delight, we reflect God's character to those around us.

Reflection Questions:

- Where does what you do reflect God's care and delight in His creation?
- What part of your work (paid or unpaid) reflects God's Kingdom when it is done well?
- Where do you notice God's beauty breaking through in ordinary moments of your day?

Simple Practice:

This week, notice beauty in God's world and where beauty, care, or excellence shows up through what you do.

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week, try asking:

Where do you see beauty and care showing up in my work or the way I care for others?

Closing Prayer

God of beauty and wonder, thank You for creating a world filled with color, texture, and life. Help me notice Your beauty around me and reflect it through my work and presence. May my efforts bring delight to You and goodness to others. Amen.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Begin with two minutes of silence and stillness before God. Let this moment push back against the noise and center your heart in His presence.

WEEK 8: MARCH 1

THE CITY OF MAN IS THE CITY OF GOD

Read: Genesis 1:28; Revelation 21:25–26

The Bible begins in a garden and ends in a city. God's vision for the future encompasses people, culture, work, and creativity as they are brought into His renewed Kingdom. What we do now, how we live, work, love, and serve, matters more than we realize.

Reflection Questions:

- Where do you see your daily work or presence connecting to God's larger story of renewal?
- What kind of Kingdom contribution do you sense God inviting you to make in this season of your life?
- Where do you see small acts of faithfulness today making a lasting difference?

Simple Practice:

Use the next few pages to think through your gifts, your call, and then complete your **Tentative Call Statement.**

Conversation Prompt

If you're in a small group or with a friend this week, try asking:

What do you see God forming or calling forth in my life right now?

Closing Prayer

Faithful God, thank You that my life is part of Your work and Your story. Help me live with hope, courage, and purpose in the work You've given me. Guide me as I discern how You are calling me to participate in Your Kingdom here and now. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GIFTS

As you draft your Tentative Call Statement, you'll see this phrase:

"...by using my gifts as a _____."

In **Called & Gifted**, we discuss spiritual gifts using five roles drawn from **Ephesians 4:7, 11–13**, often referred to as the **APEST gifts**. These gifts reflect different aspects of Jesus' ministry and help us name the unique way God has wired each of us to serve others.

The five gifts are **Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd,** and **Teacher**. These are not job titles or career labels. They describe how God tends to work through a person, not what they do for a living.

APEST at a Glance

Apostle: Pioneers and visionaries who start new things, build systems, and extend God's mission.

Prophet: Truth-tellers and justice-seekers who call people toward faithfulness, justice, and integrity.

Evangelist: Inviting messengers who help others encounter the good news of Jesus.

Shepherd: Those who nurture, protect, and walk alongside people in community.

Teacher: Guides who help others understand and live out God's truth.

When you name one of these in your **Tentative Call Statement,** you are simply noticing the way God often uses you to love and serve others in this season.

EXAMPLES OF TENTATIVE CALL STATEMENTS

Here are a few examples to help you imagine what this might look like:

"I feel called to encourage and equip young adults who are struggling with faith and purpose. I see this calling playing out in mentoring relationships at my workplace and church. As a Teacher, I feel energized when helping others understand Scripture in practical, everyday ways."

"I feel called to walk alongside young adults in my church, helping them grow in their faith and discover how to follow Jesus in everyday life. As a Shepherd, I'm energized by creating safe, welcoming spaces where people can be honest about their struggles and experience God's grace."

"I feel called to stand with and advocate for families experiencing food insecurity in my city, helping connect them with resources and restore dignity through compassionate relationships. As a Prophet, I'm motivated to speak truth, challenge injustice, and call people back to God's vision for community and care."

"I feel called to use my creative gifts in writing and photography to tell stories that inspire hope, point people to Jesus, and encourage others to live with courage and compassion. As an Evangelist, I love connecting with people's hearts and inviting them to consider God's goodness."

Remember, you can live out your calling through:

- paid or unpaid work
- caregiving, retirement, volunteering, or prayer
- creativity, leadership, presence, and faithfulness over time

What matters most is not having a perfect statement, but paying attention to where God is already at work in and through you.

YOUR TENTATIVE CALL STATEMENT

Throughout this series, you've reflected on God's good design for work, His mission in the world, the renewal of the city, the dignity of your labor, and the beauty He delights in restoring.

As these themes come together, you may sense greater clarity about how God has wired you, who you're drawn to serve, and where your faith intersects with daily life.

In our **Called & Gifted Workshops**, we spend intentional time discerning what we call a **Tentative Call Statement**.

We use the word tentative on purpose. This work is not about locking in a final answer, but about naming what God may be inviting you into in this season.

At its core, a Tentative Call Statement asks three simple questions:

- Who am I called to love and serve?
- Where is this calling lived out—what people, places, or contexts?
- How has God uniquely gifted or wired me to serve them?

Take a few moments to write a draft below.

MY TENTATIVE CALL STATEMENT

I feel called to (who) _____

in the setting of (where) _____

by using my gifts as a _____ by (how) _____

This statement is not meant to limit you. It's meant to help you take one next faithful step.

One Next Faithful Step

What is one simple, concrete way you can live this out in the coming weeks?

Do you need help figuring out the next step? Reach out to Pastor Mark at mmorris@centerpoint.faith or visit centerpoint.faith/apprenticeship-path to learn more.

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use these around the dinner table, in the car, or at bedtime.
Read the verse aloud, then talk together.

WEEK 1: GOD GAVE US WORK

📖 **Genesis 2:15:** "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."
💬 What kinds of work do we do as a family (school, chores, jobs, helping others)?
❓ How can the work we do help others or care for God's world?

WEEK 2: SENT WHERE WE ARE

📖 **Matthew 28:19-20:** "Therefore go and make disciples…"
💬 What places do we go every week (school, work, activities, neighborhood)?
❓ How can we show Jesus' love in those places?

WEEK 3: IMAGINE WHAT GOD MIGHT DO

📖 **Isaiah 65:17:** "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth."
💬 What's one thing we wish were better in our school, neighborhood, or city?
❓ What's one small way our family could help make things better?

WEEK 4: SEEKING PEACE

📖 Jeremiah 29:7 – "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city…"
💬 What does peace look like in our family? At school? At work?
❓ How can we bring peace to someone this week?

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use these around the dinner table, in the car, or at bedtime.
Read the verse aloud, then talk together.

WEEK 5: SHARING WHAT WE'VE BEEN GIVEN

📖 **Proverbs 11:10**: "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices."
💬 What gifts, skills, or resources has God given our family?
❓ How could we share what we have to help someone else?

WEEK 6: ALL WORK MATTERS TO GOD

📖 **1 Corinthians 15:58**: "Your labor in the Lord is not in vain."
💬 What kinds of work do people in our family do each day?
❓ How can we do our work with faithfulness and love?

WEEK 7: GOD LOVES BEAUTY

📖 **Genesis 2:9**: "The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow... pleasing to the eye."
💬 Where do we see beauty in our world or in each other?
❓ How can our family help create beauty or care for what God has made?

WEEK 8: GOD IS RENEWING THE WORLD

📖 **Revelation 21:5**: "I am making everything new!"
💬 How do you think God wants to use our family to help others?
❓ What's one way we can live with purpose this week?

SIMPLE FAMILY PRACTICES

EVERYDAY WORK BLESSING
Before school or work, say together:
“God, use what we do today to help others and honor You.”

Where We Helped Today
At dinner or bedtime, each person shares:

- One way they helped someone
- One way someone helped them
- One thing they worked hard at

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION JAR
Keep a jar or bowl.
When someone notices an act of kindness, effort, or service, add a coin or note.
Celebrate together how God uses small things.

CHOOSE ONE PLACE
Pick **one place** your family is connected to (school, team, neighbor, workplace).
Pray for that place each week during the series.

CREATE A FAMILY CALLING SENTENCE
Together, try finishing this sentence:

“As a family, we want to love and serve others by _____.”

And Remember
Spiritual practices are not the goal; Jesus is.
These practices and rhythms help your family notice where Jesus is already at work and join Him there.

FIVE ALIVE

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

When we abide in Him, His heart for those who don’t yet know Him becomes our heart too.

Earlier this year, many of us placed names on the Contending for the Lost prayer boards in our sanctuary—committing to pray for people we long to see come alive in Christ. Five Alive is a simple tool that helps you carry that same heart into your daily rhythm:

- **Name five people** in your life who don’t know Jesus personally today.
- **Commit to pray daily** that your “five alive” would come alive in Christ.
- **Ask Jesus for opportunities** to actively participate in helping your five alive take steps toward Him.

This isn’t about pressure or performance only the Holy Spirit transforms hearts. Instead, it’s a way to cultivate a rhythm of prayer and compassion, sharing in God’s love for the one and being shaped by His hope.

My Five Alive:

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